

HAZARD ALERT

DROWNINGS

Updated

REVISED STATISTICS AS OF 7/15/1998

In the past twenty-seven months, fifteen miners have drowned while performing work at metal and non-metal properties. This represents 62% of all drowning occurring in the metal and non-metal industries between 1990 and July 15, 1998.

Twelve of the 24 drownings since 1990 occurred when mobile equipment being operated by the victims entered the water. Of the drownings involving boats and dredges during this period, only one person was wearing a life jackets.

Drownings at Metal and Non-metal Mines 1/1/90 to 7/15/98

Cause of Accident	Type of Operation			Total
	Strip/Quarry	Dredge	Mill	
Equipment falling into water	11	1	0	12
Victim falling into water	1	9	1	11
Swimming to work boat	0	1	0	1
Total	12	11	1	24

The risk to miners who work around water can be minimized by:

- * ensuring that workers on dredges and barges wear life jackets
- * providing safe access to barges and dredges
- * ensuring that boats and other equipment are properly maintained and used within design capacity
- * constructing berms or barriers along bodies of water
- * not working alone unless the worker can be seen or heard by others

U.S Department of Labor
Mine Safety and Health Administration
J. Davitt McAteer, Assistant Secretary